



# Bitterroot National Forest

1801 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Hamilton, MT 59840 (406) 363-7100

## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Nan Christianson  
Public Affairs Officer  
(406) 363-7113, 531-1130**

### **"Slick Forest Service Roads Warrant Cautious Driving"**

Hamilton, Montana, February 6, 2007 — Bitterroot National Forest Road Engineer Rich Rains returned to the office Monday afternoon with a word of caution for people who plan to drive on lower- to mid-elevation Forest Service roads.

"With temperatures fluctuating significantly between lows well below freezing and highs in the 40's and 50's, conditions on these roads change quickly," Rich explained. "You might drive up in the morning on packed snow and come down in the afternoon across water on snow. Or the slush you drove through mid-day can turn to ice once the road bed becomes shaded in late afternoon."

As with all winter travel, the key is to ensure others know of your travel plans, that you are well-prepared for a variety of conditions and unexpected delays, and that you use good judgment in assessing weather, snow pack, road conditions and whether the prudent decision would be to change your driving plans.

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Ravalli County Commissioners

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